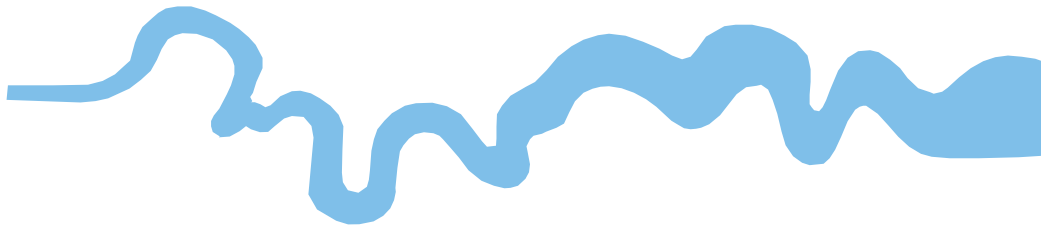


T V A S



NORTH MIDLANDS

**A Later Iron Age, Roman and Medieval settlement
north-east of Monkton, Ocle Pychard, Herefordshire**

Archaeological Excavation

by Helen Daniel

**Site Code: OPW20/94
HER Event Number: EHE80491**

(SO 5821 4591)

**Later Iron Age, Roman and Medieval settlement
north-east of Monkton, near Ocle Pychard, Herefordshire**

An Archaeological Excavation

for Mr George Leeds

by Helen Daniel

TVAS (North Midlands)

Site Code OPW20/94

June 2022

Summary

Site name: Land north-east of Monkton, Ocle Pychard, Herefordshire

Grid reference: SO 5821 4591

Site activity: Archaeological Excavation

Date and duration of project: 27th July – 7th September 2020

Project coordinator: Helen Daniel

Site supervisor: Helen Daniel

Site code: OPW20/94

Area of site: 0.5 hectares

HER Event Number: EHE80491

Summary of results: The excavation revealed a range of archaeological features with ceramic finds dating from the late Iron Age, early Roman and Medieval periods. The features identified include relict field system, pits, ditches, ring-gullies, post-holes, post-pads, robbed/collapsed walls, a small oven and a stone structure most likely for malting or cereal drying. A palaeochannel and pond were also noted, A stone pavement identified in the evaluation was also fully exposed and is suggestive of a roadway though only a small area of the pavement remains. This feature's southern ditch also formed the northern limit of a semi-circular ring-gully. The ditch cut the gully, so it is possible that the gully was originally circular, with its northern half obliterated during the construction of the ditches.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS North Midlands, Stoke-on-Trent and will be deposited with Herefordshire Museum Service with the accession number 2021-12. A digital version will be provided to ADS and the Herefordshire HER.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford	12.08.22
	Steve Preston✓	12.08.22

Later Iron Age, Roman and Medieval settlement north-east of Monkton, near Ocle Pychard, Herefordshire: An Archaeological Excavation

by Helen Daniel

Report 20/94

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological excavation carried out at land north-east of Monkton, near Ocle Pychard in Herefordshire (SO 5821 4591) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr George Leeds of Withers Farm, Burtons Lane, Wellington Heath, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 1NF as advised by Ms Helen Martin-Bacon of Avalon Heritage Ltd, Dairyhouse Lane, Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent, ST10 2PW

Planning permission (P182191/F) has been granted by Herefordshire Council for the development of an extensive area of land for polytunnels, for the cultivation of soft fruits, along with all necessary infrastructure including access tracks, attenuation ponds, worker accommodation and facilities, with landscaping and environmental enhancement measures. The consent is subject to a condition (8) which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019) and the Council's policies on archaeology. Following the conclusions of a desk-based assessment (Border 2018), a programme of site investigation was recommended. Initial evaluation by trial trenching was carried out across three fields in 2018 (Border 2020). Based upon these results, mitigation in the form of an open area excavation was required to investigate and record features that were situated in the proposed location of an attenuation pond.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification (AH 2020) approved by Mr Julian Cotton, Archaeological Advisor to Herefordshire Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Helen Daniel, Elspeth St John-Brooks, Michael Paine, Camilla Carvalho and Caterina Gregori between 27th July – 7th September 2020 and the site code is OPW20/94. The archive is presently held at TVAS North Midlands, Stoke-on-Trent and will be deposited with Herefordshire Museum Service with the accession number 2021-12.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in central Herefordshire, situated immediately north-east of Old Monkton Farm, c.1.5km west of the hamlet of Ocle Pychard and approximately 9km north-east of the city of Hereford (Fig. 1). The site is located within agricultural fields to the south of the A465; bounded to the west by an unclassified lane leading to

Monkton and by a small stream *c.*400m south of the excavation area, flowing north-east to south-west. The site comprises the western portion of a large irregular field, currently under cultivation, and is surrounded by agricultural fields on all sides. The topography of the site slopes gently from a height of 68m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north down to 66m aOD in the south. Underlying bedrock geology is recorded as Raglan Mudstone Formation with no recorded superficial deposits (BGS 1974).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been addressed in a desk-based assessment (Border 2018a) and Heritage Statement (AH 2018). In summary, recorded evidence of prehistoric activity in the vicinity is limited; however, the site is crossed by an ancient watercourse or palaeochannel, evidence for which is recorded on historic mapping, aerial photographs and current LiDAR imagery. While this feature has evidently been disturbed by modern agricultural activity, it has potential to contain deposits of significant palaeoenvironmental interest. Evidence of Romano-British occupation has been identified on the southern periphery of the site, including the remains of a possible villa/high-status farmstead at Westhide (Border 2018a).

In Domesday Book, Ocle Pychard is represented as *Acle* and is unusual in that it was held by six free men, as six manors, from Roger de Lacy who held many lands in early post-Conquest Herefordshire (Williams and Martin 2000, 507). It was assessed at seven hides, and while the area of arable land is not stated, the demense held two plough teams and the villagers 9, so it will have been a substantial area. The population is listed as 7 villans, 10 bordars, a reeve and a smith, along with 12 slaves, an unusually high proportion. Roger's father Walter de Lacy had granted a small amount of land from this manor to the Church of St Peter in Hereford, with a further two ploughs, 1 villan and 1 bordar with another plough and a slave. Roger's manor was worth 75s and the Church's portion another 25s, but before the Conquest the undivided manor had been worth £7 15s. *Acle* translates as oak-tree wood or clearing and the suffix "Pychard" is the anglicisation of the surname of later landowner Roger Picard (Mills 2001, 353). During the early medieval period, the land belonged to the minster of St Guthlac, sited on what became Castle Green in Hereford. Guthlac was a Mercian saint who died in *c.* AD715.

Particular reference is given to several fields located north-east of Monkton, within which a curvilinear hollow and associated platforms, enclosures and cultivation features are visible on aerial photographs and LiDAR imagery. Documentary records suggest these features represent evidence of a medieval settlement situated north-east of the monastic grange of Monkton (first documented in the early 12th century), which was still occupied in the late medieval period. Boundaries enclosing nine crofts with house sites can be distinguished

on either side of a hollow way running through a meadow called Little Monkton on a map of 1842 (Hickling 1972). Modern farming activity has largely eroded any visible traces of these features, but it was considered that there may remain significant potential to encounter evidence of buried occupation features and deposits in this specific area. There was also felt to be potential to reveal features associated with the abandonment of the medieval settlement recorded to the north-east of Monkton. Evidence of relict field boundaries, remains of buried farm outbuildings, trackways and quarries of post-medieval date may also be encountered (Border 2018a).

An initial programme of archaeological field investigation comprised a 46-trench evaluation and established the presence of buried features and deposits of archaeological interest in the western portion of the site (Border 2018b). The earliest evidence encountered was in trench 40 (Fig. 2), towards the eastern edge of the overall development area, where a possible prehistoric linear feature contained a large assemblage of Middle Iron Age pottery; potentially of special significance given the limited evidence of prehistoric activity presently recorded in the Herefordshire HER within the vicinity. A circular pit possibly dating to the Roman period (tentative due to a single abraded sherd) and a number of other similarly abraded pottery sherds and fragments were recovered in other parts of the site. Whilst this suggests a likely Romano-British presence within the vicinity, no further supporting evidence of such activity was found during the evaluation, however, occupation sites have been recorded to the south (Border 2018a). An as yet undated stone spread/surface was recorded in Trench 38. A spread of medieval material suggests the likelihood of 13- to 14th-century occupation fairly close by, based on the quantity and date of the pottery recovered; the sherd size suggests these had not found their way onto the site by means of secondary deposition but rather that they had not moved any great distance from their point of origin (Border 2018b).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the excavation was to further investigate the features and deposits of archaeological interest that were originally identified during the field evaluation phase. This was to comprise full excavation of an area measuring approximately 100m x 50m, encompassing the locations of evaluation trenches 36, 38 and 40. The general aims of the project are:

- to determine the character, date, extent and distribution of those archaeological remains identified during the programme of trial trenching;
- to establish their potential significance in accordance with *NPPF*;
- to ensure that any archaeological remains which may be disturbed by development activity can be appropriately sampled and recorded;
- to produce relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits and features recorded;

- to establish the character of these features and deposits in order to define functional areas and spatial relationships between differing zones of activity;
- to produce information on the economy and local environment and compare and contrast this with the results of other excavations in the region;
- to disseminate the results of the fieldwork through an appropriate level of publication.

Aims highlighted in the West Midlands Regional Research Framework (Watt 2016) for the Roman period were also considered during the course of the excavation. The excavation established a possible date for the first occupation of the site and confirmed that the site contains evidence for multi-period activity spanning millennia from the Iron Age and Roman periods to a medieval settlement, long suspected to be near Monkton.

An area measuring approximately 0.5ha, centred on the position of evaluation Trench 38, was to be excavated in order to cover the full extent of the features identified during evaluation stage and to allow a 5m buffer from any recorded archaeological features (Fig. 2). The area was to be stripped of topsoil, subsoil and any other overburden under continuous archaeological supervision using a 360°-type machine fitted with a toothless bucket, to expose the natural geology or the top of archaeological deposits. Spoil heaps were to be monitored throughout the process to aid finds recovery and any archaeological deposits identified were to be hand cleaned, dug, recorded and sampled according to the strategy set out within the approved written scheme of investigation (AH 2020).

Results

The roughly rectangular excavation area, measuring approximately 100m by 50m, was stripped of topsoil and subsoil, on average 0.5m deep, using a 360°-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision (Fig. 2; Pl. 1). A number of areas of burnt stone containing daub were noted during the initial strip, however following further investigation, only one of these areas was identifiable as a structure. This was located in the northern part of the site and was due to the increased depth of the subsoil in this area, which was *c.*100mm deeper. In addition, a small oven, two partial ring gullies, six ditches, nine pits, three post-holes and three post-pads were recorded along with a palaeochannel, a pond, and plough headlands forming part of a field system.

Based on ceramic traditions and association with other landscape features, the site's features can be assigned to four main phases; Prehistoric, Iron Age/Early Roman, Roman and Medieval – but there is also a strong likelihood that the 'phases' defined on ceramic grounds in fact overlap chronologically. All the excavated features are summarized in Appendix 1. A general overview of the excavated features is shown on Figures 3 and 4, with a more detailed plan of structures presented as Figures 5 and 6. A few sherds of pottery and a prehistoric

flint were recovered from the subsoil. Features were phased based on material evidence and stratigraphic relationships. The phasing for this site comprised the following sequence of four categories:

- 1) Prehistoric
- 2) Late Iron Age/Early Roman (c.50BC-AD70)
- 3) Roman (c.AD 43-410)
- 4) Medieval (c. AD 1100-1600)

Phase 1: Prehistoric

Evidence for earlier prehistoric activity on the site was limited to the finding of two struck flint scrapers. One came from the fill of Roman pit 26 where it must be residual. The other was found in the subsoil close to partial ring gully 1019. Neither flint can be closely dated but they belong to the later Neolithic or Bronze Age periods. The form of the ring gullies, which produced no datable finds, tentatively suggests a Middle to Late Iron Age date, though in fact they would not be out of place in the earliest Roman period.

Ring gully 1019 (Figs 3 and 7, Pls 2 and 3)

Ring gully 1019 was a curved linear feature between 0.43–0.54m wide and between 0.20–0.32m deep and excavated in three slots (19, 20 and 23) filled with firm pinkish-grey clay with occasional stone inclusions (74, 75 and 80). The gully had an identified terminus to the north (23) and so may have been penannular in form, however it is unclear if it continued in the east as it was not observable in this area having been heavily disturbed by the construction of later stone feature 56. No finds were recovered from any of the fills and there were no stratigraphic relationships. The interior of the ring gully contained only one internal feature (15) (Pl. 3); a single posthole, 0.17m in diameter and 0.15m deep with a single fill of light greenish-brown silty clay (69) which also contained no dating evidence. The ring gully is tentatively assigned to this period due to its form and lack of finds within the fills, although a prehistoric flint was recovered from the subsoil close to the feature.

Ring gully 1033 (Figs 4 and 6, Pl. 8)

Ring gully 1033 was a curved linear feature between 0.6–0.8m wide and between 0.15–0.26m deep and excavated in four slots (33, 34, 37 and 40) filled with firm greyish-green clay with occasional stone inclusions (93, 95, 97 and 150). The northern limit of this feature is formed by ditch 1027 – this arrangement formed a semi-circular feature, the interior of which contained four pits and a post-hole (1004), so it is possible that the gully was originally circular (with a possible projected diameter of 15m) and that its northern half was obliterated during the construction of the pavement and es, although no evidence was found to confirm this. No

dating evidence was uncovered but the feature is assigned to this phase due to its stratigraphic position below Iron Age/Roman ditch 1027.

Pit and posthole cluster 1004 (Figs 4 and 6, Pl. 8)

The interior of the semi-circular ring gully contained a cluster of six internal features. The pits (4, 5, 6, 9 and 10) ranged in diameter from 0.40–0.65m and in depth from 0.10–0.19m, and a single posthole (7) was 0.35m in diameter and 0.27m deep. It is possible that pits 5, 6, 7 and 9 formed part of a post-built hut circle, truncated in the same way as 1033, with 4 and 10 forming an entrance porch to the south-east. The projected line of this is marked on the plan (Fig. 6) but it is admittedly speculative. No finds were recovered from any of these features.

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill(s)</i>	<i>Diameter (m) or Length x breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Profile</i>	<i>Finds</i>
4	59	0.55 x 0.28	0.11	wide u-shaped	none
5	60	0.55 x 0.27	0.10	wide u-shaped	none
6	61	0.65 x 0.30	0.19	wide u-shaped	none
7	62	0.35 x 0.25	0.27	u-shaped	none
9	65	0.55 x 0.23	0.13	wide u-shaped	none
10	66	0.50 x 0.40	0.18	u-shaped	none

Phase 2: Late Iron Age – Early Roman (c.50BC-AD70)

Although some of the pottery in handmade Malvernian fabric could have its origins as early as the middle Iron Age, the fabric can also be late Iron Age or early Roman and all of this material appears to occur in the same features as more clearly Romanizing wares, so that all of these features are probably early Roman, or at most not very much prior to the Conquest.

Stone pavement 153 (Figs 4 and 8; Pl. 7)

The stone pavement (153) initially identified in the evaluation was fully exposed showing the feature to extend 3.2m east-west and c.2.3m north-south. From photographic evidence from the evaluation, it appears not to extend any further east-west than previously recorded. The pavement consisted of irregularly-shaped angular stones of varying sizes, laid in an uneven and disorderly fashion. It was however, sandwiched by two ditches, one north (1029) and one south (1027), parallel to each other in an east-west alignment. To the north the pavement extended up to the edge of the ditch (slot 30) but may not have done so to the south, where only a single outlying stone lay next to the ditch, the rest being c.1.5m away. The formation is suggestive of a roadway with roadside ditches and a metalled centre, although with only a small area of pavement remaining this is uncertain, and there was no evidence that either ditch extended to the west of the palaeochannel. No dating evidence was recovered, but is assigned to this phase due to its association with ditch 1027.

Ditch 1027 (Figs 4, 6 and 8; Pls 6–8)

Ditch 1027 was the southern of two parallel east-west aligned ditches either side of stone pavement 153. There was no substantial evidence that the pavement extended right up to this ditch, as it did to the north, only a single outlying stone lay next to the ditch with the rest being *c.*1.5m away. The ditch was between 0.68–0.81m and 0.29–0.36m deep, excavated in three slots filled with compact yellowish-pink clay (84, 85, 96) and contained two sherds of a bowl dated to the early Roman period. This feature also formed the northern limit of ring-gully 1033 and excavation of a relationship slot showed the ditch cut the ring gully.

Ditch 1029 (Figs 4, 6 and 8; Pls 6–8)

Ditch 1029 was the northern of the two ditches either side of stone pavement 153, which extended right to the edge of the ditch (slot 30). The ditch was between 0.55–0.93m and 0.26–0.31m deep, excavated in two slots; one (29) filled with soft greyish-brown silty clay (86) over soft greyish-blue silty clay (87); the other (30) filled with firm reddish-orange clay (88) below firm greyish-red clay (89) below firm brownish-red clay (90). No dating evidence was uncovered but the feature is assigned to this phase due to its association with ditch 1027.

Ditch 1022 (Figs 4 and 7; Pls 5 and 14)

Ditch 1022 was situated in the south-west of the site; a linear feature gently curving from the southern baulk to the western limit of excavation and 1.2m wide and 0.38m deep. It was excavated in two slots (22, 31), both of which were filled with the same firm reddish-brown silty clay (79, 91). The 28 sherds of pottery recovered from this ditch are of early Roman date. The ditch was shown to cut pit 26 which also contained early Roman pottery.

Pit 16 (Fig. 3)

Pit 16 was located to the south-east of ring gully 1019, was 0.48m in diameter and 0.16m deep and filled with firm blueish-green clay with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions (70). Fifteen fragments of daub in a sandy-grey fabric were recovered but no pottery, providing a very tentative date only on the basis that the rest of the site's daub is from this phase.

Posthole 17 (Figs 3 and 7, Pl. 4)

Posthole 17 was located immediately north-east of pit 16 and was 0.58m in diameter and 0.32m deep. The fills were a firm brownish-grey clay (71) over a firm orange-grey clay (73) and featured large packing stones; the upper fill contained a single fragment of daub in a clay fabric closely resembling Malvern ware, which might date to the Iron Age/early Roman period.

Pit 26 (Figs 4 and 7; Pl 14)

Pit 26 was oval in plan with a flattish base, 1.2m in diameter and 0.36m deep, filled with compact reddish-orange silty clay (83). A single sherd of a local Iron Age ware bowl decorated with a narrow cordon of impressed crescent moon shapes (Pl. 5) was recovered from the fill, but the pit is dated by a further seven sherds assigned to the earlier Roman period. The pit was cut by ditch 1022.

Gullies 38 and 39 (Fig. 4)

Two narrow gullies were located in the south-west corner of the site; both were 0.2m wide and between 0.7m and 0.11m deep. Two sherds of early Roman pottery were recovered from gully 39, which was found to cut gully 38.

Phase 3: Roman (c. AD 43-410)

Stone Spreads (Figs 3 and 4)

The site featured a number of large spreads of heat affected and broken angular stones (1034, 1035, 1036, 1037 and 1039). One of these spreads (1035) overlay a tree throw, the fill of which contained large pieces of ceramic building material (CBM), some of which was identifiable as daub. All of the CBM in the assemblage (70 pieces) has been identified as of Iron Age or Roman date, the majority (30 pieces) recovered from tree bowl 35 beneath stone spread 1035. Most of these stony areas were indistinguishable as structures and only remained as very shallow spreads (depth c.0.05m). It is notable that the area at the northern end of the site where subsoil was deeper revealed a better-preserved stone structure, albeit damaged and incomplete. These spreads consisted of the same type of stone and showing similar signs of working with evidence of heat effects. It is likely that these features represent demolition rubble from other stone structure(s) which are now so truncated to be indistinguishable in form or function. Allowing that the CBM is durable and may easily have been reused it has been allowed to suggest that these rubble spread originated in the Roman period.

Phase 4: Medieval (c. 1100-1600)

Group 1056 (Figs 3, 5 and 9, Pls 9, 13, 15 and 16)

Group 1056 consists of pit 44; structure 56 (pit 45, walls 46, 47, 48 and 49 and collapse 167); collapsed structure 77; and spreads 43 and 78.

Pit 44 was located directly beneath structure 56 in the east and spread 43 to the west and was only visible in section following the removal of 43. It contained a single firm red-brown silty-clay fill (158) with an abundance

of charcoal inclusions and had a diameter of 0.7m and was 0.14m in depth. The location of this pit beneath the eastern, open-end of structure 56 and the large amount of charcoal within its fill may point to it being a stokehole. No dating evidence was recovered.

Structure 56 was covered by a thin spread of red-brown clayey silt (54) which contained a large amount of pottery dating from the medieval and late medieval periods, along with a few residual Roman sherds. The structure consisted of a rectangular pit (45), around its edges on all sides were walls built of two courses of randomly laid rough-hewn stones (walls 46, 47, 48 and 49). Walls 47 and 49 were parallel to each other on an alignment close to east-west and measured *c.*1.55m in length; parallel walls 46 and 48 lay at right angles to form the rectangle and were *c.*0.7m in length, and all walls were an average of 0.2m wide. However, wall 48 to the west, was at a slightly lower level than the others and featured a mixture of laid and random stone elements – it was not clear if this represented a robbed foundation which was originally of similar height to the other walls or a step, allowing easier access down into the pit area. Also, walls 47 and 49 both extend past the line of wall 48, giving the appearance of a corridor, but perhaps indicating an opening into pit 44. In the centre of pit 45 was a central area of collapse (167) covered by thin flat stones, but the fills either side were very similar; in the east was a mid reddish-brown clayey-silt (52 upper) and soft grey-brown clayey-silt (57 lower); in the west a brown red clayey silt (53 upper) and red brown clayey-silt (58 lower). The pit cut into the natural clay and extended 0.8m east/west and 0.4m north/south and was 0.48m deep. There was no clear evidence of a construction cut – the excavation was boxed off leaving a minimum of 0.5m around the edge of the feature.

Structure 77 also consisted of a single course of rough-hewn stone; its northern limit was a collapsed and robbed wall orientated east-west which incorporated heat affected stones, squared and cut stones and at least one fragment of possible rotary quern. Lying perpendicular to this and adjacent to the corridor end of 56 was a further robbed/collapsed wall line; this also incorporated heat affected stones, squared and cut stones and featured one with a linear groove along its centre. A further perpendicular wall line lay parallel to this at the western edge of the feature but was much more disturbed and heavily robbed, although still featured heat affected and squared stones.

Spread 43 surrounded structure 77 and comprised a shallow deposit (*c.*0.23m) of firm of mid brown red clayey silt (156 upper) and light brown red clayey silt (157 lower) both of which contained pottery and small stones. The spread and may represent a demolition layer and was certainly associated with structure 77 as it did not extend any further than the stones of that structure. Structure 77 was a 2m by 1.5m area of collapsed stone immediately west of structure 56 but was much less well-preserved. Once planned, possible wall lines became

apparent, comprising a disturbed jumble of angular stones, with some showing signs of having been worked and possibly faced. A possible wall line orientated east-west was observed to the northern edge of the feature where larger shaped blocks remained and a further possible wall line ran north to south along the western edge of structure 56, together forming an 'L' shape in plan. Five sherds of Roman pottery and six of medieval date were recovered from spread 43; the majority of the pottery (ten sherds) came from the top fill (156) but a single large sherd of Severn Valley ware found in 157 beneath is residual. The remains are of a structure of unidentified function, but possibly related to cereal processing.

Spread 78 was confined to the far west of structure 77 and comprised a firm red-brown clayey silt 0.18 deep which lay over the stones in this area. Similar to spread 54 found above structure 56, spread 78 contained pottery mainly dating to the medieval and late medieval periods but again with a handful of residual Roman sherds.

The entirety of structure 1056 measured 2.44m across its north-west and 3.5m from east to west. The stones varied in size from large squared stones to medium flat angular to small angular stones; many of them showed evidence of being worked, displaying cutmarks, shaping and squaring and with clear sections of facing internally and externally. Some evidence for bonding materials was apparent with possible deposits of mortar remaining on a number of the stones. The unstructured nature of the stones may provide evidence of the best stone having been robbed and this may account for the lack of apparent floor surfaces.

On initial excavation, structure 56 was interpreted as a corn or cereal dryer, there is certainly evidence of some heating effects/burning to the immediate west, close to structure 77, as well as abundant charcoal inclusions in the pit fills and a possible stoke-hole located at the structure's open end. However, there is little evidence of burning with the structure itself which would have been expected if functioning as a flue, so perhaps the rectangular pit cut into the natural clay was intended to contain water instead. In this case, a function as part of the malting process maybe a more suitable explanation. If this is the case, then structure 77 would most likely represent the robbed/collapsed remains of a drying floor, a feature also utilised within that process. Structure 56 dates from the medieval period, evidenced by the pottery found in this feature which, although containing a few residual Roman sherds, dates mainly from the 10th-15th centuries AD.

Oven 94 (Figs 3 and 9, Pl. 12)

Oven 94 was located towards the north end of the excavation area, its dimensions were 1m long by 0.6m wide but it was only 0.08m deep. Only the very base of this small oven/kiln remained, comprised of heat affected stones. The firm red-brown clayey-silt fill (159) contained 21 sherds of pottery dated variously to the Roman

period (2 sherds), 12th–14 century (17 sherds) and 15–17th centuries (2 sherds) and its function was confirmed by a fragment of vitrified hearth lining. The bulk of the pottery suggests the feature dates to the 12th–14 century with 2 intrusive later sherds, but it may equally be 15th century or later with much residual pottery.

Walls 154 and 155 (Fig. 3)

Robbed out wall foundations 154 and 155 were located to the south-east of oven 94. Wall 154 was orientated north-east to south-west and 1m long by 0.2m wide. What remained of the walls showed that they were constructed from rough-hewn stones using uneven coursing and no obvious mortar. Wall 155 was aligned east-west and was of the same dimensions and construction. The fill above (161) contained three sherds dated to 13th-15th centuries. The function and form of these walls are unclear and the pottery only dates the robbing not their construction.

Pit 3 (Figs 3 and 5, Pl. 11)

Pit 3 was located to the north-east of structure 1056, though it had not clear relationship to this. It was circular in plan with a flat bottom with a diameter of 1.25m and a depth of 0.12m. The pit was filled with a firm dark brown silt (55) and contained three sherds of medieval pottery.

Undated

Palaeochannel 1000 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 15)

Palaeochannel 1000 was located in the far west of the excavation area, on a north–south orientation but only slightly visible north of ditch 1024. The relict stream channel was *c.*1m wide and 0.3m deep and headed south along the central third of the excavation area before turning east to join the area of the relict pond/pool (1003). No dateable evidence was recovered from its fill.

Plough headlands 1001 and 1002 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 15)

Plough headland 1001 began at the extreme northern edge of the site and continued roughly south until curving to the west just after passing ring gully 1019, continuing this new alignment until it abuts palaeochannel 1000 towards the excavation area's western boundary. Headland 1002 is aligned east-west and located to the south of structure 1056 where it travels westward from the site's eastern extremity to abut headland 1001. They represent the remains of a partial field system which would appear to continue to the east, but is of uncertain date.

Pond/pool 1003 (Fig. 4; Pl. 15)

Pond/pool 1003 was situated towards the south of the site at the end of a narrow palaeochannel. It comprised a large irregular shaped area of grey-blue clay, measuring 25m by 10m at its widest and longest. A machine-

excavated sondage measuring 2m by 2m was cut into the feature to confirm its nature. No dateable evidence was recovered from its fill.

Ditches 1008, 1011 and 1024 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 15)

Ditch 1008 was situated in the south-east corner of the site and was aligned north-west – south-east. It was excavated in three slots (8, 32 and 42). In slot 8, two fills were observed, the upper (63) a soft greyish blue silty clay and a soft blackish-brown silty clay with a high organic content (64). Slots 32 and 42 each had single fills; a firm light grey-green clay (92) and a firm dark blackish-brown clay (152) respectively. It cut ditch 1011 and was between 0.50 and 0.55m wide and between 0.3 and 0.34m deep.

Ditch 1011 curved from the south-east corner of the site in a north-west direction and was cut to the north by ditch 1008. It was excavated in two slots (11 and 41). In slot 11, two fills were observed, the lower (67) a soft blueish-grey silty clay and the upper (68) a soft greyish-brown silty clay. Slot 41 contained a single fill of dark blackish-grey clay (151). It was 0.5m wide and between 0.31 and 0.45m deep.

Ditch 1024 was located in the north-west of the site and was aligned north-west – south-east. It was excavated in two slots (24 and 25). It was 0.51 wide and between 0.17 and 0.27m deep and the two slots excavated both contained a single fill of firm pinkish-grey clay (81 and 82). The ditch had no stratigraphic relationship with any other features and no dating evidence was recovered.

Post-pads 163, 164 and 165 (Fig. 3; Pl. 15)

Three post-pads were recorded at the extreme north of the site, ranging in width from 0.21–0.24m and in depth, all three were very shallow comprising only a single layer of stones. There was an obvious north-south alignment between 163 and 164, 6.1m apart, with post-pad 165 positioned 6.5m to the north-west of these. No dating evidence was recovered from these features. No obvious function can be suggested.

Finds

Pottery by Sue Anderson

The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of c.216 sherds of pottery weighing 1648g, largely dating to the medieval period but including small assemblages of Middle Iron Age and Romano-British date. The assemblage was accompanied by 73 sherds of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 1299g (Appendix 2).

The pottery was recorded using selected recommendations outlined in Pottery Standards (Barclay *et al.* 2016). Sherds were sorted macroscopically aided with a x20 microscope into provisional fabric groups based on the principal inclusions present in the clay, along with the frequency and grade of the inclusions. Known, or

traded, Roman wares are coded with reference to the National Roman fabric reference series (Tomber and Dore 1998). Other Roman wares were either coded using a similar format to that used in the NRFC or coded more generically according to the firing colour and texture. Some sherds are cross-referenced to the Gloucester type fabric series (Timby and Tyers 2020).

The entire sorted assemblage was quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context. Where identified freshly broken sherds were counted as single pieces. Weight is recorded to the nearest gram or, for very small fragments to the nearest 0.5g. In addition rims were measured for diameter along with the percentage present, for the estimation of vessel equivalents (EVE) (Orton *et al.* 1993). Rim-sherds were also identified to broad form type. The data along with a provisional date was entered onto an Excel spreadsheet deposited with the site archive. No ancillary research has been carried out as part of this assessment to check for other similar assemblages from the area or to put the assemblage into its local or site context. The relationship of individual contexts and the spatial arrangement of the features was unknown during the assessment.

The pottery assemblage was recovered from 29 defined contexts, including, ditches, gullies, pits, post-holes and spreads. The sherds range from small to medium pieces and are in poor to average condition with poor surface preservation and abraded edges.

Iron Age (250BC–AD70)

There were twelve sherds (69g) dating from the Iron Age from four contexts. Of local origin are a few sherds of limestone tempered Malvernian handmade ware (MAL REA) found in pit 26 and ditch slot 27 and granite tempered Malvernian handmade ware found in burnt stone spread 35 and small oven/kiln 94. One of the limestone tempered sherds was decorated, featuring a narrow cordon of impressed crescent moons.

Romano-British (1st to 4th century AD)

There were 53 sherds (366g) dating from the Romano-British period recovered from the subsoil and five defined contexts, which consisted of local coarse wares. These local wares include Malvernian handmade ware (MAL REA), but were dominated by oxidised Severn Valley ware (SVW OX) which accounts for a 37% (count) of the group. Identifiable forms include jars and bowls. Amongst the other wares were a few pieces sandy greyware and soft orange micaceous wares. There were no regional or continental imports present.

Early Medieval (10th to 13th century AD)

A further twelve sherds (48g) dating from the early medieval period were recovered from the subsoil and three defined contexts, all of local fabrics. The assemblage consisted of no more than a few sherds of each the

following fabrics; Cotswolds ware (Fabric D1); Malvern HM early medieval; local HM greywares; Hm coarse and sandy greyware. Jars were the only vessel form represented.

Medieval-Late Medieval (13th to 17th century AD)

Most of the assemblage, some 113 sherds (1033g), dates to the medieval or late medieval period. There are a range of fabrics, most of which are only represented by single sherds. The assemblage is dominated by two main fabrics; with 42 sherds of Malvernian ware (Group B) and 32 sherds of Herefordshire micaceous glazed ware. These are products of the Herefordshire & Worcestershire border industry (Glos TF 54) dating to the 14th-17th century. Amongst the sherds in this fabric is a strap handle fragment from a jug from collapsed stone feature 78.

Uncertain

A further 26 sherds (132g) were of uncertain date, the majority of these (88%) were in a soft orange micaceous fabric with the remainder of Cotswolds ware (Fabric D1)

Ceramic Building Material (CBM) by Sue Anderson

Most of the CBM was in very abraded state and smaller pieces difficult to discriminate from fired clay or Severn Valley ware. In total 73 fragments weighing 1299g were recorded from an oven, pits, post-holes, ditches and spreads of burnt stone (Appendix 3). A few of these spreads contained quite large pieces of CBM, some of which was easily identifiable as daub due to the impressions of wattle preserved in their surfaces. All the CBM has been identified as Iron Age or Romano-British in date.

Struck Flint by Steve Ford

Just two struck flints were recovered from the excavation phase of the fieldwork: both scrapers, one from the subsoil and one from pit 26 (fill 83). The pieces are both in a good unpatinated condition made on a black flint with dark red tinge. The cortex where present is smooth suggesting a source not direct from the chalk, but presumably from drift deposits. The pieces are not closely datable but are most likely to be of later Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

Worked Stone by Steve Ford

Pit 26 (83) contained a volume of unworked stone which was a pale red fine grained homogeneous sandstone with rare flecks of mica. It is unclear if the stone had been burnt.

Groups 1034, 1035, 1036, 1037 and 1039 were all spread deposits of angular stone of the same or similar pale red fine grained homogeneous sandstone as above. They featured in the northern two-thirds of the site. Some but not all of the stones showed evidence of heat effects and the ceramic building material recovered from some of those areas is, where datable, assigned to the late Iron Age/early Roman period.

Palaeoenvironmental remains by Rosalind McKenna

A programme of soil sampling was implemented during the excavation, which included the collection of soil samples from 18 sealed contexts. Samples were processed using standard water flotation techniques and the resultant flots examined under a low-power binocular microscope at magnifications between x12 and x40. Details of methodology and identification guides used are in the archive. Taxonomy and nomenclature follow Schweingruber (1978) and Hather (2000) for charcoal and Stace (1997) for other plant remains. For charcoal, a random selection of ideally 100 fragments of varying sizes was made, which were then identified. Where samples did not contain 100 identifiable fragments, all fragments were studied and recorded. Taxa identified only to genus cannot be identified more closely due to a lack of defining characteristics in charcoal material.

Results

Charred plant macrofossils were present in seven of the samples (Appendix 4). The preservation of the charred remains ranged from poor to average. Indeterminate cereal grains were recorded in all seven of the samples where plant macrofossils were present, and were the most abundant remains within all of the samples except that from pit 44. These were identified based on their overall size and morphological characteristics, which may suggest a high degree of surface abrasion on the grains, indicative of mechanical disturbances that are common in features such as pits, post holes and gullies, where rubbish and waste are frequently discarded.

There was a single chaff fragment (a by-product of the crop processing sequence) present in one sample, but only in small amounts in comparison to the amount of grains recorded. Another, more indirect, indicator of cereals being used on site is the number of remains of arable weeds that were found in four of the samples. These weeds are generally only found in arable fields, and are doubtless incorporated into domestic occupation samples with crop remains. Along with grasses (POACEAE), remains of docks (*Rumex*) and cabbage family (BRASSICACEAE) were recorded. These species would almost certainly have been brought to the site together with harvested cereals.

Remains of peas and vetches were also present in small numbers in four samples. They may have been incorporated into the samples as weeds of cultivation, or may have been gathered specifically for use as a food.

Charred legumes can represent food waste, as they do not require parching in the processing sequence utilised in their harvest. Therefore, their only contact with a fire would be during food preparation, and/or deposition of used foodstuffs.

The remains of cereals and legumes together in the samples, may point to the waste of pottage – a dish consumed on a daily basis, by people from all backgrounds, from the medieval periods onwards (Black 2003). Parallel historical evidence for the later medieval period (Dyer 1989) shows that the actual food grains that were used varied according to what was available and were made into pottage.

All of the samples produced small suites of plant macrofossils, both in terms of quantity and diversity. Due to this fact, other than to state their presence in the samples, nothing of further interpretable value can be gained. The fact that the samples have produced broadly similar results suggests that these secondary deposits do not result from deposition of debris from accidental charring events, but instead represent a consistent pattern of charring cereal grain and crop weeds over the period of occupation and using the waste for fuel, which was subsequently deposited around the site.

Charcoal fragments were present in the majority of the samples, occasionally in abundance (Appendix 5). The preservation of the charcoal fragments ranged from poor to average. The majority of the fragments were too small to enable successful fracturing that reveals identifying morphological characteristics. Where fragments were large enough, the fragments were very brittle, and the material crumbled or broke in uneven patterns making the identifying characteristics difficult to distinguish and interpret, and so only a limited amount of environmental data can be gained from the samples. Identifiable remains were however present in ten samples.

The total range of taxa comprises oak (*Quercus*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and the rose family (ROSACEAE). Oak is the most frequently recorded, dominating seven of the ten samples. The rose family dominated three samples. Hazel was also present in small numbers in one sample. It is possible that these were the preferred fuel woods obtained from a local environment containing a broader choice of species.

Bark was also present on some of the charcoal fragments, and this indicates that the material is more likely to have been firewood, or the result of a natural fire. The compositions of the samples are all similar, it is probable therefore that these small assemblages of charcoal remains reflect the intentional deposition or accumulation of domestic waste. The identified taxa are not considered to be proportionately representative of the availability of wood resources in the environment in a definitive sense, and are possibly reflective of particular choice of fire making fuel from these resources.

Conclusion

The remains of plant macrofossils showed the utilisation of indeterminate cereal grains, together with weed seeds typically associated with cultivation – grasses, docks, etc. In terms of taphonomy, it is likely that the samples all represent secondary deposition of charred plant remains. This probably occurred through intentional dumping. The use of cereal processing waste as fuel is well attested and disposal of spent fuel either into features such as pits or ditches or directly dumped onto the site seems a likely explanation for the arrival of this material on site. As the plant remains were found together with charcoal remains, it may suggest that waste was put on the fire with other rubbish and a small fraction became charred without burning up, and joined the domestic ash on the rubbish heap.

The charcoal remains showed the exploitation of several species native to Britain. Oak is a particularly useful fire fuel as well as being a commonly used structural/artefactual wood that may have had subsequent use as fuel. Hazel is recorded as a good fuel wood and was widely available within oak woodlands, particularly on the fringes of cleared areas. The Rosaceae family includes herbs, shrubs and deciduous trees. Several economically important products come from the family including many edible fruits such as apples, pears, plums, cherries, and also trees and shrubs such as rowans and hawthorns.

Charcoal and plant macrofossil records from archaeological sites do not accurately reflect the surrounding environment. Wood was gathered before burning or was used for building which introduces an element of bias. Plant remains were also gathered foods, and were generally only burnt by accident. Despite this, plant and charcoal remains can provide good information about the landscapes surrounding the sites presuming that people did not travel too far to gather food and fuel.

Conclusion

The excavation revealed a range of archaeological features with finds dating from the late prehistoric, late Iron Age/early Roman, Roman and Medieval periods. The features identified include; a palaeochannel; a pool; relict field system; pits; ditches; ring-gullies; post-holes; post-pads; robbed/collapsed walls; a small oven and stone structures probably for malting or cereal drying. These features represent episodic use of the site spanning at least 1500 years, with some evidence for even earlier occupation.

Ring gully 1019 is tentatively assigned to the earliest phase (I) due to its form and lack of finds; a similar flat-based penannular ring ditch (SMR 43269) was recorded at Stapleton as part of the River Lugg Valley Project (Dorling 2007) however that ditch was much wider and had traces of an external bank, resulting in classification

as a henge monument. There is not enough evidence to make the same assumption for 1019 but the prehistoric flint recovered from the subsoil in the feature's immediate vicinity lends weight to it dating from this period.

Also assigned to this phase is semi-circular ring gully 1033, which was truncated by ditch 1027, may once have been circular and represent the drip gully of a roundhouse; this is supported by the seven internal features of group 1004 which may (tentatively) represent the truncated remains of a circular post-built structure with an entrance to the south-east. A later ditch cut the gully, so it is possible that the gully and its internal feature were both originally circular, with the northern section obliterated during the construction of the ditches, though no clear evidence was found to confirm this.

The majority of the features belong to Phase II, dated to the late Iron Age – early Roman period, consisting of pits, postholes, gullies and ditches. Also dated to this phase is the stone pavement identified in the evaluation – this was fully exposed and found not to extend any further east-west than previously recorded. It was however, shown to be sandwiched by two ditches to north and south, parallel to each other on an east/west alignment. The formation is suggestive of a roadway with roadside ditches and a metalled centre, although with only a small area remaining this is merely supposition. This feature's southern ditch also formed the northern limit of ring-gully 1033.

Whilst the ceramic assemblage for the Roman phase (III) is second in size only to that of the medieval phase, this period had the fewest certainly ascribed features with certainty. The activity in this phase is limited to those areas containing spreads of stone, thought to represent the remains of badly truncated and/or robbed structures; mainly spread 1035 but also from the other stone spreads. The exact nature of the activity is unclear but is possibly connected with agricultural processes such as malting or corn drying. The absence of house sites, is a typical and recurrent observation for many rural Roman sites, and usually interpreted as indicating that many houses were of beamslot construction vulnerable to plough erosion.

Four features have been assigned with certainty to the final phase (IV) in the medieval period. The pottery assemblage contains wares from the 11th through to the 17th century, evidencing a long-lived human presence over many centuries, but probably mostly towards the earlier part of this span. These features consist of a stone structure, pits, a small oven and two robbed or collapsed stone walls. The activity from this period appears to be concentrated in the northern half of the development area, with the earlier activity located more towards the south.

The excavation has confirmed the presence of a medieval settlement within the immediate locality and has also provided evidence of settlement of an earlier date with continuity of settlement from the late Iron Age into

the early Roman period. The long datable coverage supplied by the ceramic assemblage has a noticeable gap which occurs between the end of the Roman period and beginning of the post-Norman era. This does not necessarily mean that the site was abandoned at this time ; the Wroxeter Hinterland project suggested that even during the Roman period pottery use in rural sites should be seen as the exception rather than the rule in Cornovian territory (Gaffney and White 2007). This is no less true of the early medieval period in the region which is relatively aceramic from the later Romano-British period until just before the Norman conquest. Conversely it is also now well known that many Roman rural sites ceased activity in the later Roman period, well before the official end of Roman Britain (Allen *et al.* 2016, fig. 4.9) so it may be the case that the site was occupied until this time and then abandoned until being re-occupied from the 11th century onwards.

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APPENDIX 1: Feature details

<i>Structure/Group</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
		50	Topsoil		
		51	Subsoil		
1002			Plough Headland E/W	Post-medieval	Very mixed finds
1003			Pool/pond		
1034			Stone Spread		
1036			Stone Spread		
1037			Stone Spread		
1039			Stone Spread		
1056	45	52	Inside Rectangular Structure		
1056	45	53	Inside Corridor Structure		
1056		54	Outside Whole Structure	Late Medieval	Very mixed finds
	3	55	Pit	Medieval	Finds
1056		56	Whole Stone Structure	Late Medieval	Very mixed finds
1056	45	57	Inside Rectangular Structure		
1056	45	58	Inside Corridor Structure		
1004	4	59	Pit		
1004	5	60	Pit		
1004	6	61	Pit		
1004	7	62	Posthole		
1008	8	63–4	Ditch		
1004	9	65	Pit		
1004	10	66	Pit		
1011	11	67–8	Ditch		
	15	69	Posthole		
	16	70	Pit	Iron Age	Finds
	17	71, 73	Posthole		
1000	18	72	Palaeochannel		
1019	19	74	Ring Gully		
1019	20	75	Ring Gully		
1001	21	76	Footpath/holloway		
1056		77	Collapse Stone Structure		
1056		78	Fill Over Collapse Stone	Late Medieval	Very mixed finds
1022	22	79	Ditch	Roman	Finds
1019	23	80	Ring Gully Terminus		
1024	24	81	Ditch		
1024	25	82	Ditch		
	26	83	Pit	Iron Age/Roman	Finds
1027	27	84	Ditch	Iron Age/Roman	Finds
1027	28	85	Ditch		
1029	29	86–7	Ditch		
1029	30	88–90	Gully		
1022	31	91	Ditch		
1008	32	92	Ditch		
1033	33	93	Ditch		
1033	34	95	Ditch		
1027	36	96	Ditch		
1033	37	97	Ditch		
	38	98	Gully		
	39	99	Gully	Roman	Finds
1033	40	150	Ditch		
1011	41	151	Ditch		
1008	42	152	Ditch		
		153	Stone Pavement		
1056	43	156–7	Spread	Roman/Medieval	Finds
1056	44	158	Charcoal Pit		
	94	159–60	Small Stone Oven/Kiln	Late Medieval	Very mixed finds
	154	161	Robbed Collapsed Wall	Late Medieval	Finds
1035	35	162	Tree Throw	Iron Age	Finds
	155		Robbed Collapsed Wall		
		163	Post pad		
		164	Post pad		
		165	Post pad		
		166	Deposit below 153		
1056		167	Collapse in pit 45, structure 56		

APPENDIX 2: Catalogue of Pottery by fabric per context (weight in g)

<i>Cut/ Group</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>FType</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Date</i>
	51	Subsoil	Malvernian ware (group B)		8	21	
	51	Subsoil	MAL RE A		1	6	?Iron Age/Early Roman
	51	Subsoil	Cotswolds ware (fabric d1)	Jar	3	9	10th-12th century
	51	Subsoil	Local sandy greyware	Jar	1	24	12th-13th century
	51	Subsoil	Malvern Chase ware?		1	4	12th-13th century
	51	Subsoil	Silty micaceous greyware, burnt organic inclusions		1	7	12th-13th century
	51	Subsoil	Malvernian ware (group B)	Tripod pitcher	3	88	13th-15th century?
	51	Subsoil	Herefordshire micaceous glazed (Glos fab TF54/Hereford A7b?)		20	141	15th-16th century?
	51	Subsoil	Malvernian ware (group B)		2	6	13th century?
	51	Subsoil	Hard sandy greyware		1	12	Medieval
	51	Subsoil	Soft orange micaceous		4	64	Roman
	51	Subsoil	Soft orange micaceous		1	24	Roman
	51	Subsoil	Soft orange micaceous		23	116	Roman/Late Medieval?
	51	Subsoil	Sandy oxid/greyware	JAR?	1	8	Roman?
56	54	Structure	Local hm greywares (group A)		2	15	12th-14th century
56	54	Structure	Malvern hm early med	Jar	1	8	12th-13th century
56	54	Structure	Malvernian ware (group B)		6	23	12th-13th century
56	54	Structure	Malvernian ware (group B)	Jug	1	149	13th-15th century
56	54	Structure	Malvernian ware (group B)		8	112	13th-15th century
56	54	Structure	Herefordshire micaceous glazed (Glos fab TF54/Hereford A7b?)		6	42	15th-16th century?
56	54	Structure	Soft orange micaceous		5	10	Late Medieval?
56	54	Structure	Unident glazed		1	6	Late Medieval?
56	54	Structure	Soft orange micaceous		1	4	Roman
56	54	Structure	Coarse Malvern greyware	Bowl	1	10	Roman/Medieval?
3	55	Pit	Cotswolds ware (fabric D1)		1	6	
3	55	Pit	Malvern hm early med		1	1	11th-13th century
3	55	Pit	Herefordshire micaceous glazed (Glos fab TF54/Hereford A7b?)		1	9	15th-16th century?
56	78	Structure	Cotswolds ware (fabric D1)		2	10	
56	78	Structure	Malvernian ware (group B)		4	41	
56	78	Structure	Malvernian ware (group B)	jug	1	24	
56	78	Structure	Hm coarse		2	7	11th-13th century?
56	78	Structure	Local hm greywares		3	3	11th-13th century
56	78	Structure	Herefordshire micaceous glazed (Glos fab TF54/Hereford A7b?)	jug	1	63	13th-15th century
56	78	Structure	Herefordshire micaceous glazed (Glos fab TF54/Hereford A7b?)		2	9	13th-15th century
56	78	Structure	Herefordshire micaceous glazed (Glos fab TF54/Hereford A7b?)		1	16	13th-15th century
56	78	Structure	Sandy glazed		4	10	13th-15th century
56	78	Structure	Malvernian ware (group B)	jug/pitcher	2	66	13th-Early 14th century
56	78	Structure	Soft orange micaceous		5	24	Late Medieval?
56	78	Structure	Soft orange micaceous		2	3	Roman
22	79	Ditch	MAL RE A	BOWL	8	79	Early Roman
22	79	Ditch	SVW OX 2	JAR	20	71	Early Roman
26	83	Pit	MAL RE A	JAR/BOWL	5	22	Early Roman
26	83	Pit	SVW OX 2	JAR	2	23	Early Roman
26	83	Pit	MAL RE A	BOWL	1	7	Iron Age
26	83	Pit	Sandy grey ware	FRAG	1	1	Roman
27	84	Ditch	MAL RE A	BOWL	2	21	Early Roman
39	99	Gully	MAL RE A	JAR/BOWL	2	4	Early Roman
43	156	Spread	Sandy glazed		4	29	13th-15th century
43	156	Spread	SVW OX 2	JAR	3	16	Early Roman
43	156	Spread	Malvernian ware (group B)		2	7	Medieval
43	156	Spread	MAL RE A	JAR/BOWL	1	2	?Iron Age/Early Roman
43	157	Spread	SVW OX 2	JAR	1	29	Early Roman
94	159	Oven	Sandy grey ware	JAR	3	28	11th-12th century?
94	159	Oven	Malvernian ware (group B)		5	4	12th-14th century
94	159	Oven	Sandy glazed		7	14	12th-14th century
94	159	Oven	Hard redware		2	21	15th-17th century
94	159	Oven	MAL RE A	JAR	1	6	Early Roman
94	159	Oven	Soft orange micaceous		2	2	Medieval?
94	159	Oven	Limestone tempered ware	JAR/SJAR	1	5	?Iron Age/Early Roman
154	161	Wall	Sandy redware	bowl	1	12	13th century?

<i>Cut/ Group</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>FType</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Date</i>
154	161	Wall	Herefordshire micaceous glazed (Glos fab TF54/Hereford A7b?)		1	8	15th century?
154	161	Wall	Glazed coarse (mainly red) wares	JAR			Late Medieval
35	162	Tree throw	Limestone tempered ware	JAR/SJAR	8	36	?Iron Age/Early Roman

APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of CBM by fabric per context (weight in g)

<i>Group</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Date</i>
1056		52	fill	flint fabric	Daub	1	15		
1056		52	fill	stone		11	48	burnt mudstone	
1056		54	layer	soft red	Tile	2	49	curving <i>tegula</i> fragments	Roman
	16	70	pit	sandy grey	Daub	15	46		
	17	71	post-hole	MAL RE A	Daub	1	1		
1056		78	spread	soft grey	Daub	2	6		
	26	83	pit	Mal RE	Daub	9	67		
1027		84	ditch	soft red	Tile	1	12		
	94	159	oven	grey fab or sur	Hearth	1	5	vitified fragment of hearth lining	
1035	35	162	tree throw	grog red	Daub	30	1050	white impressions, some smoothed surfaces – from fairly solid structure	

APPENDIX 4: Plant Macrofossils

Taxonomy and Nomenclature follow Stace (1997).

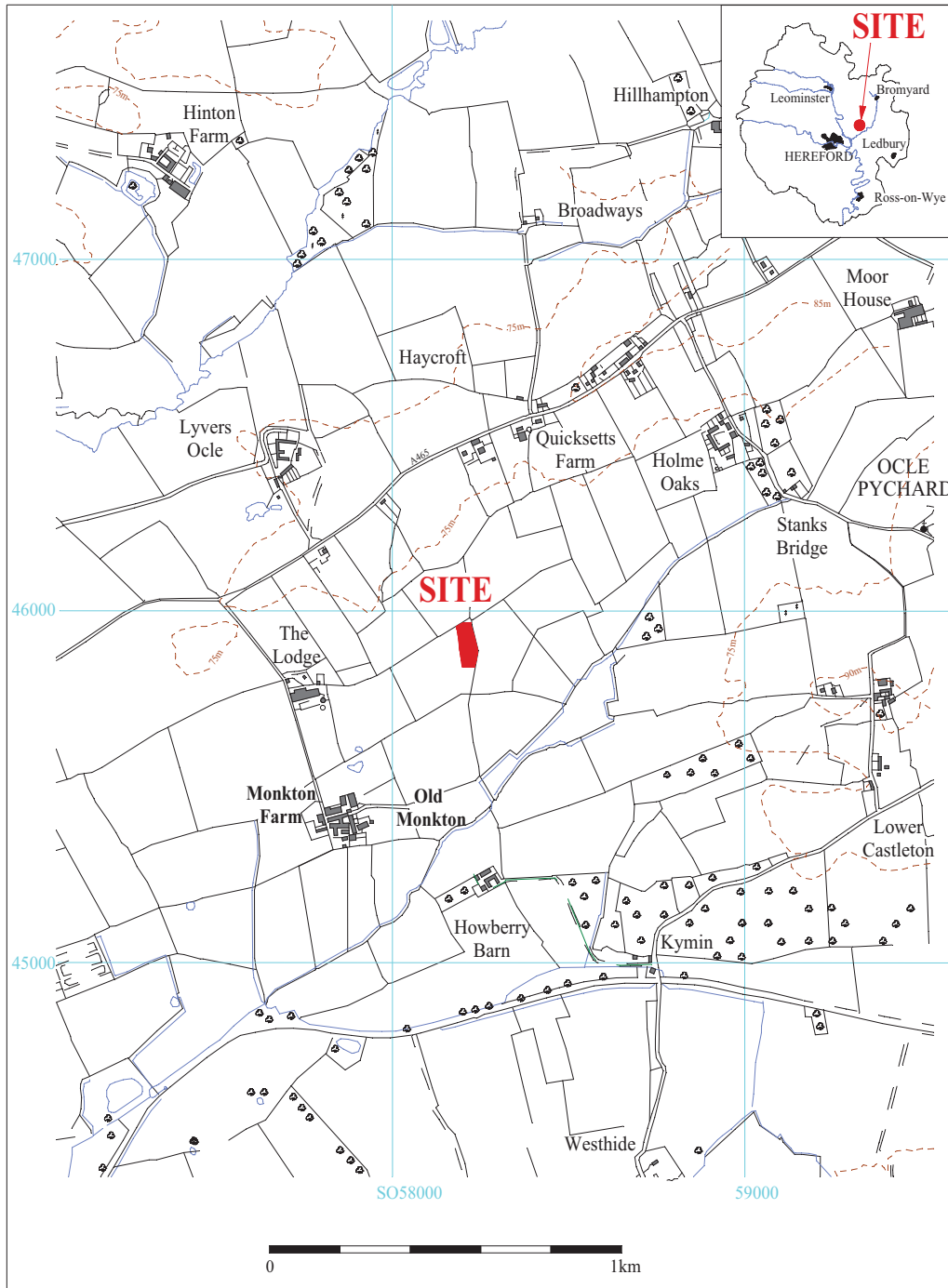
<i>Feature</i>	1056	1056	3	1056	1026	
<i>Context</i>	52	53	55	58	19	
<i>Sample</i>	1	2	3	4	83	
<i>Feature Type</i>	Structure	Structure	Pit	Structure	Pit	
<i>Phase</i>	Medieval	Medieval	Medieval	Medieval	IA / Rom	
FABACEAE	-	-	9	8	-	Pea family
<i>Pisum sativum</i>	-	-	2	7	-	Garden pea
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L.	-	-	-	1	-	Ribwort plantain
POACEAE	5	1	-	2	-	Grass
Indeterminate Cereal	24	4	11	15	1	
Indeterminate Cereal chaff	-	-	1	-	-	
Indeterminate	-	-	2	-	-	

<i>Feature</i>	43	44	
<i>Context</i>	28	29	
<i>Sample</i>	156	158	
<i>Feature Type</i>	Spread	Pit	
<i>Phase</i>	Medieval	Medieval?	
<i>Rumex</i> spp.	-	1	Dock
BRASSICACEAE	2	-	Cabbage family
FABACEAE	4	28	Pea family
<i>Pisum sativum</i>	5	3	Garden pea
POACEAE	-	2	Grass
Indeterminate Cereal	20	7	
Indeterminate	1	-	

APPENDIX 5: Charcoal

Taxonomy and nomenclature follow Schweingruber (1978).

	<i>Feature</i>	3	1056	7	10	16	22	26	31	43	44
	<i>Context</i>	55	58	62	66	70	79	83	91	156	158
	<i>Sample</i>	3	4	6	9	12	16	19	24	28	29
	<i>Feature Type</i>	Pit	Structure	Posthole	Pit	Pit	Ditch	Pit	Ditch	Spread	pit
	<i>Phase</i>	Med.	Med	Med.	Med	Med	Rom	IA/Rom		Med	Med?
	<i>No frags</i>	500+	400+	23	6	14	39	19	4	3000+	300+
	<i>Max size (mm)</i>	15	20	8	6	22	5	12	12	19	18
ROSACEAE	Rose family	87	23	3	-	-	-	-	-	100	70
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Quercus</i>	Oak	9	77	-	3	5	5	8	2	-	30
	Indeterminate	-	-	20	3	9	34	11	2	-	-

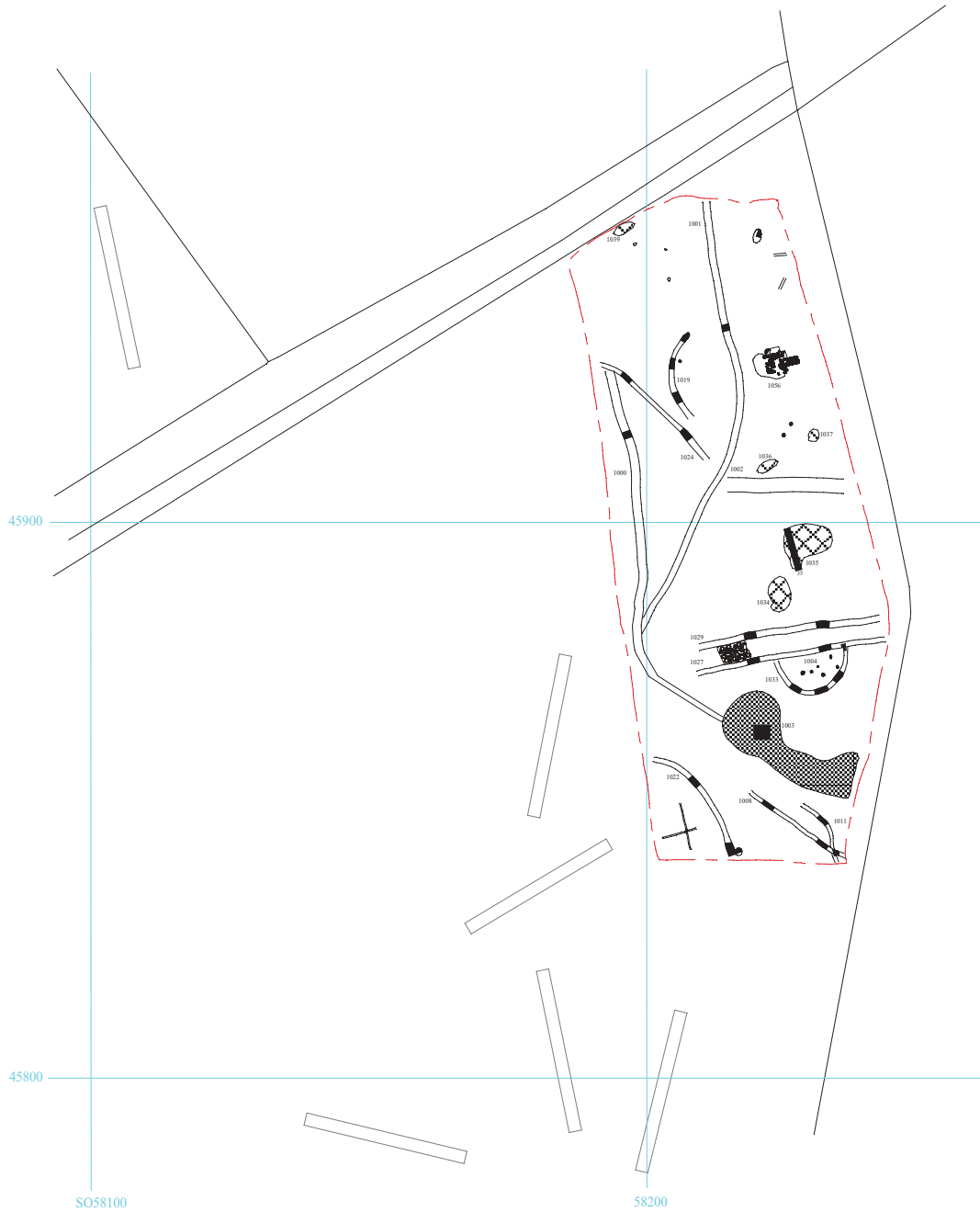


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Herefordshire
Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 1. Location of site in Herefordshire and Ocle Pychard.



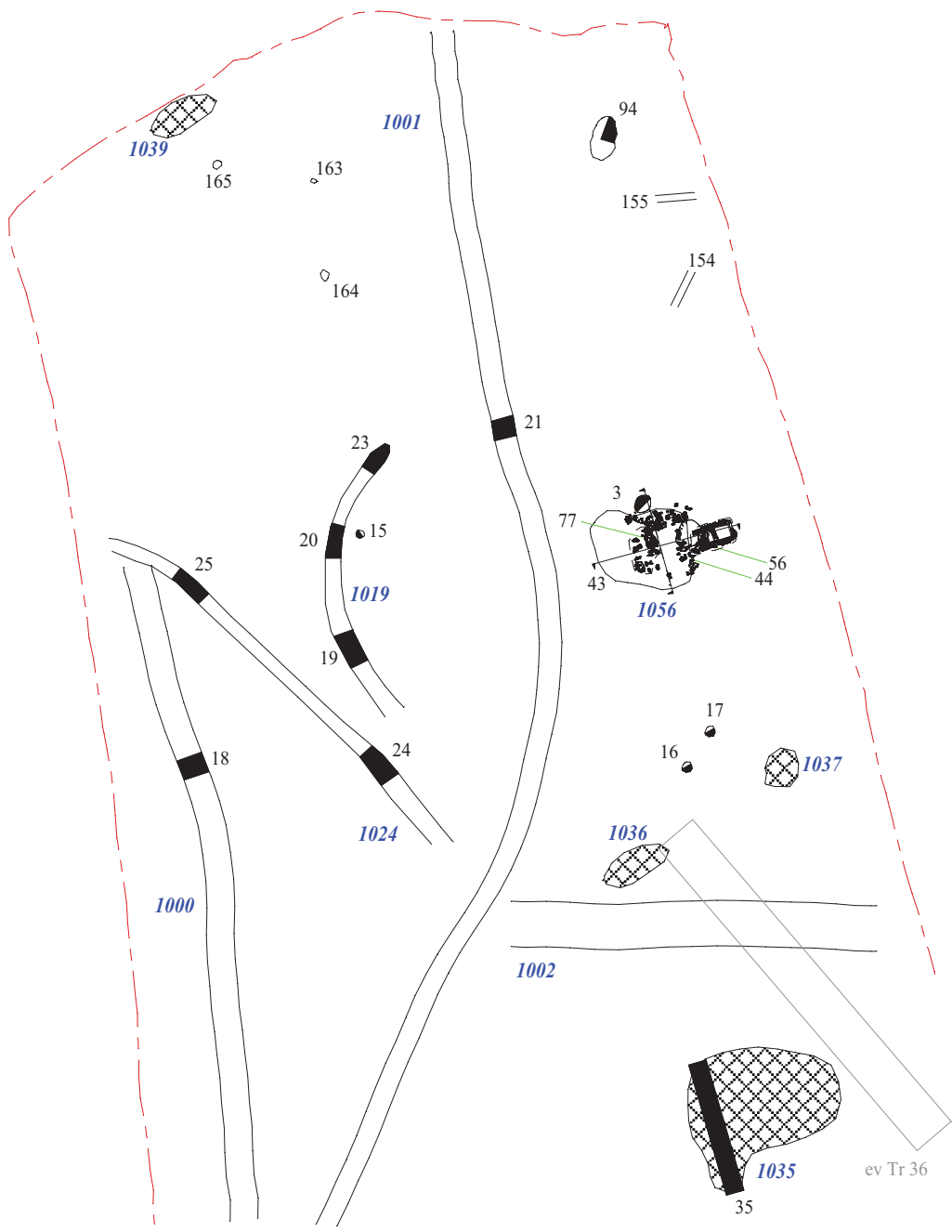


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Figure 2. Site plan showing nearby evaluation trenches



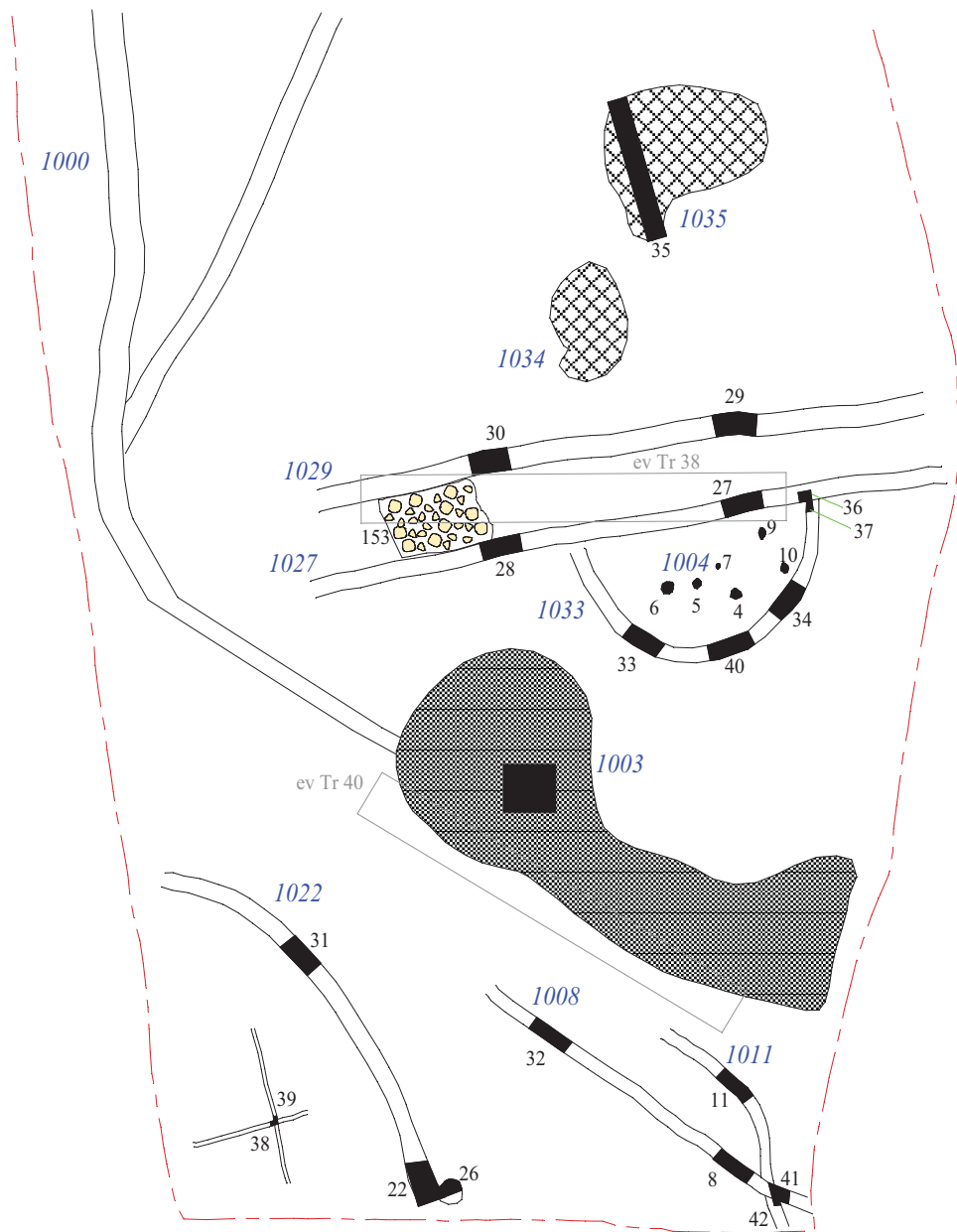


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Figure 3. Site plan showing features in northern half.





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Figure 4. Site plan showing features in southern half.

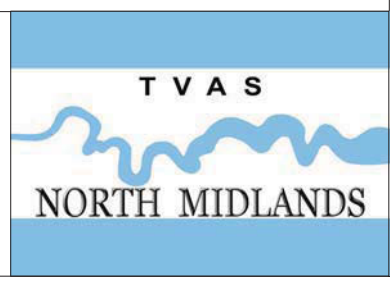


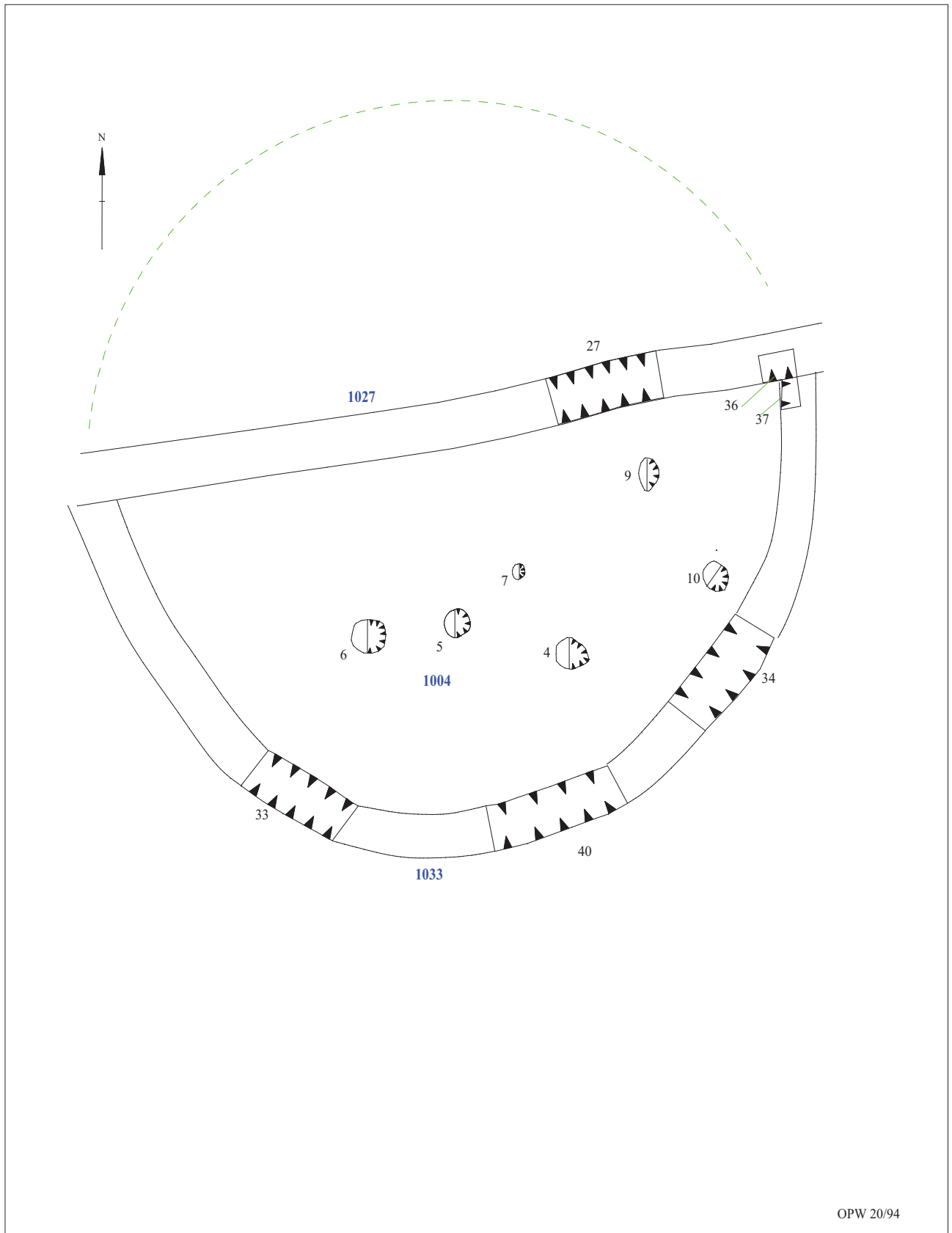


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Figure 5. Plan of 1056 stone structures 56 and 77



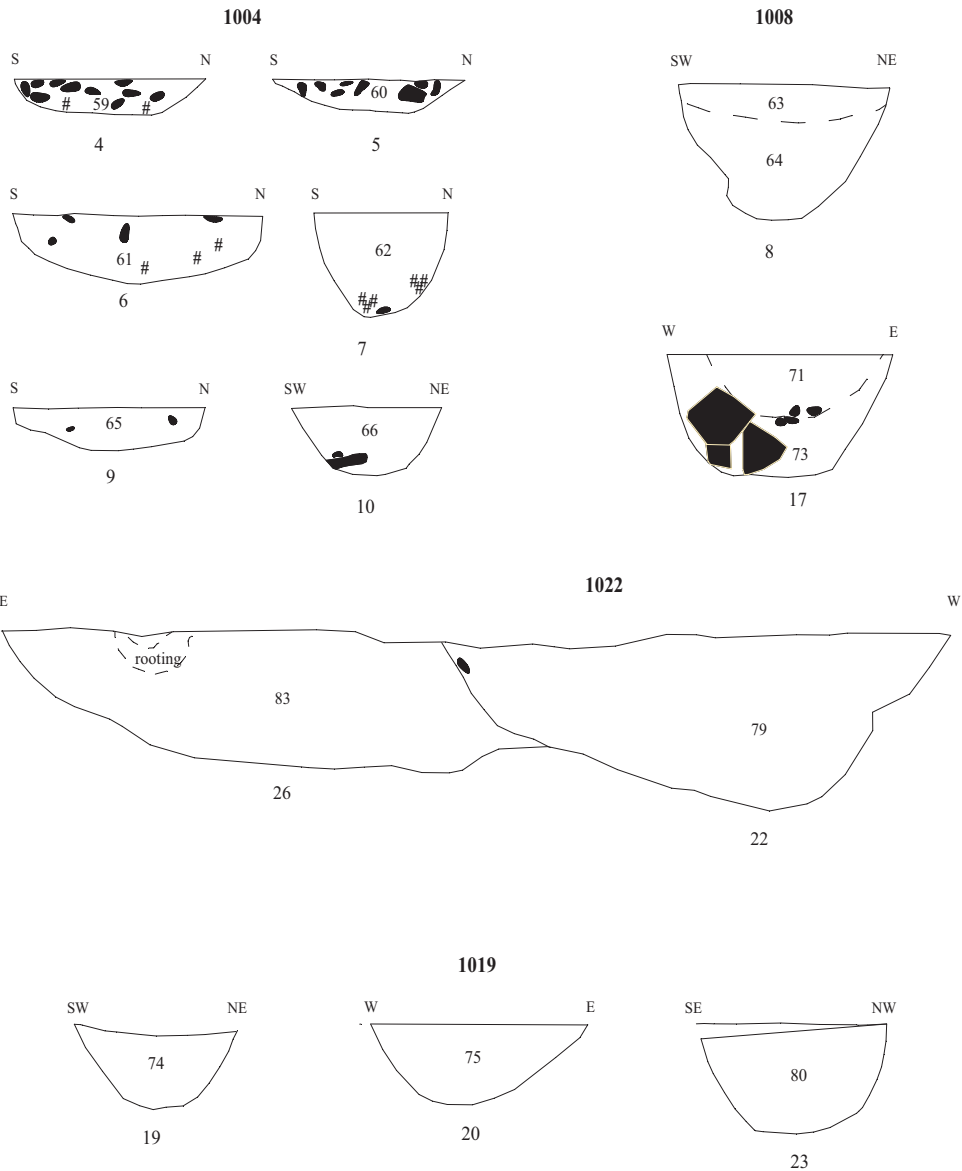


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Figure 6. Detailed plan of ring gully 1033 and pit cluster 1004





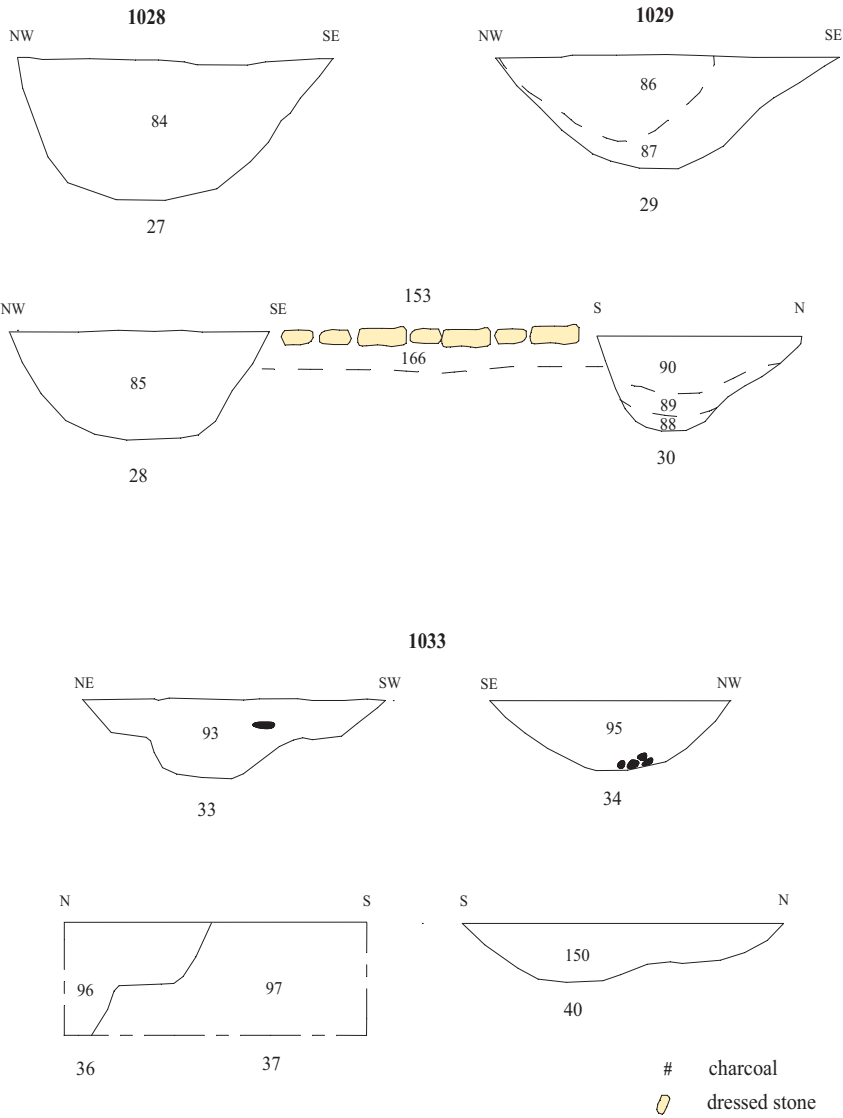
charcoal

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Figure 7. Section drawings



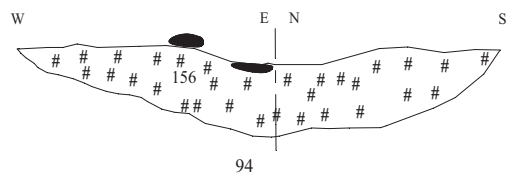
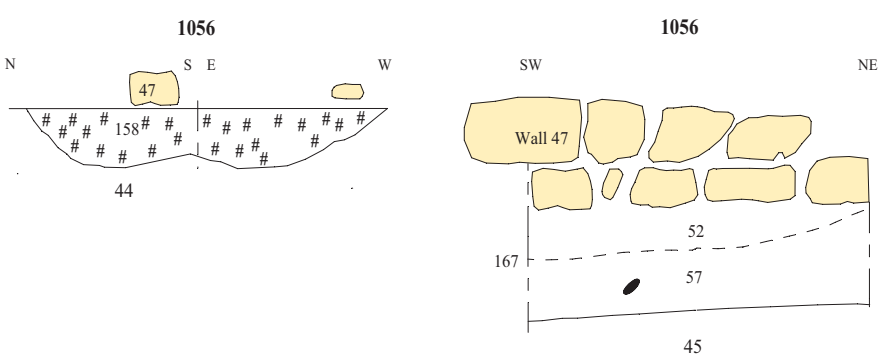
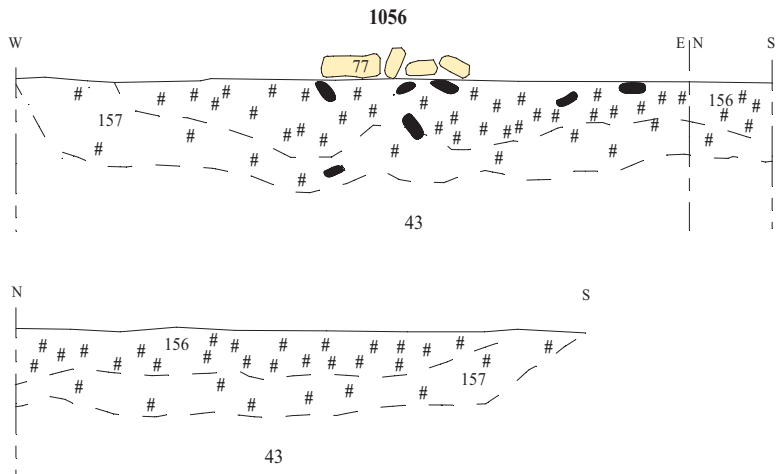


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Figure 8. Section drawings continued





charcoal
 〰 dressed stone

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Figure 9. Section drawings (continued)

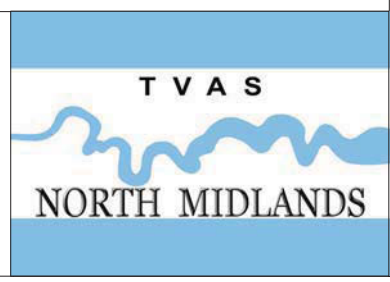




Plate 1. Site during initial strip, looking south.



Plate 2. Ring gully 1019, looking east.



Plate 3. Posthole 15 (immediately east of ring gully 1019), looking north-east, Scales: 0.3m and 0.1m.



Plate 4. Posthole 17 showing packing stones, looking south, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.

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**Land north-east of Monkton,
Ocle Pychard, Herefordshire
Archaeological Excavation**
Plates 1 to 4.





Plate 5. Decorated Iron Age pottery fragment from pit 26,
Scales: 0.1m



Plate 6. Ditches 1027 (south) and 1029 (north) with
pavement 153 between (centre), looking east.



Plate 7. Pavement 153 with flanking ditches 1027 (left)
and 1029 (right), looking east, Scales: 2m and 1m



Plate 8. Ring gully 1033 and internal features (1004),
showing relationship to ditch 1027, looking east.

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**Land north-east of Monkton,
Ocle Pychard, Herefordshire
Archaeological Excavation**

Plates 5 to 8.

T V A S

NORTH MIDLANDS



Plate 9. Stone structure 77, looking north-east,
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 10. Spread 43 beneath structure 77, looking
south-west, Scales: 1m and 0.3m



Plate 11. Pit 3, looking south-east, Scale: 1m.



Plate 12. Oven 94, looking north-east,
Scales: 0.5m, 0.3m and 0.1m.

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**Land north-east of Monkton,
Ocle Pychard, Herefordshire
Archaeological Excavation**

Plates 9 to 12.





Plate 13. Pit 44, below wall 47 to right, looking north-east, Scales: 0.3m and 0.1m.



Plate 14. Ditch 1022 and pit 26, looking south, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.

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**Land north-east of Monkton,
Ocle Pychard, Herefordshire
Archaeological Excavation**

Plates 13 and 14.





Plate 15. Stone structure 56, looking north-east, Scales: 2m and 0.5m.



Plate 16. Interior of clay pit 45 with wall 47 above, looking north-west, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

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**Land north-east of Monkton,
Ocle Pychard, Herefordshire
Archaeological Excavation**

Plates 15 and 16.





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**Land north-east of Monkton,
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Archaeological Excavation**

Plate 17. Aerial image of entire site.

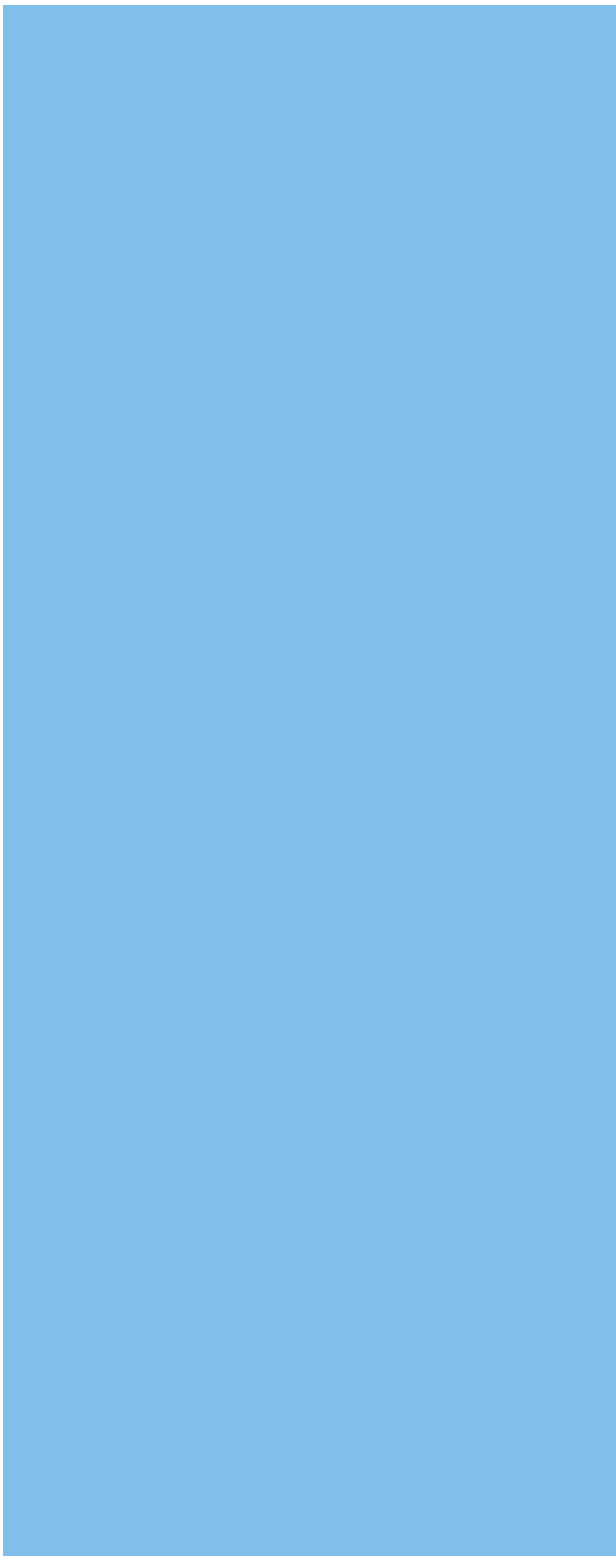
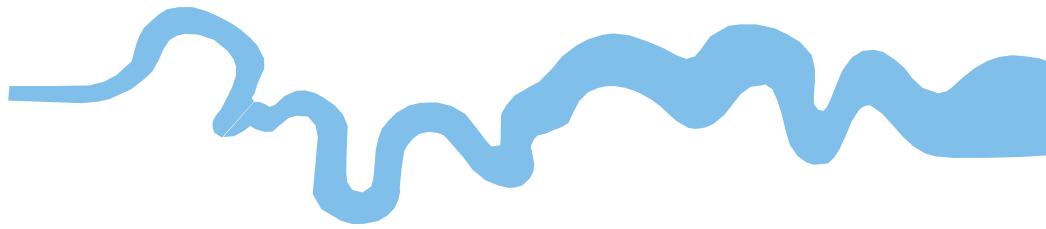
T V A S

NORTH MIDLANDS

TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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